

**Mental Health Services Act
Workforce Education and Training**

**Stipends/Loan Forgiveness/Scholarship Programs
Special Topic Workgroup**

August 15, 2006

1. Present.

- a. Scott Ahles, UCSF – Fresno University Medical Center, Psychiatry Residency Program
- b. Susan Bowen, consumer and family member representative, San Mateo County
- c. Dorbea Cary, California State University at Stanislaus, School of Social Work
- d. Konder Chung, Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD)
- e. Jose Luis Flores, Phillips Marriage and Family Therapy Graduate School
- f. Sheila Hembury, San Francisco State University School of Social Work
- g. Brian Keefer, California Mental Health Planning Council (CMHPC)
- h. R. Connie Lira, California Mental Health Planning Council
- i. Angela Minniefield, Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development
- j. Teresa Morris, California Social Workers Educational Consortium (CalSWEC)
- k. Deborah Pitts, University of Southern California, Department of Occupational Therapy
- l. Tammi Richardson, Telecare Corporation
- m. Inna Tysoe, Department of Mental Health (DMH)

Facilitator: Warren Hayes, Department of Mental Health

2. Power Point Presentation.

- a. The group reviewed a power point presentation that reviewed statewide needs assessment activities, MHSA workforce education and training actions that have been endorsed for implementation, and funding considerations. Since the June 27th workgroup meeting preliminary planning discussions have taken place with staff from the Health Professions Education Fund (HPEF), Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD), and the California Social Work Education Consortium (CalSWEC) to develop proposed funding structures and guidelines for group consideration that would enable consideration by all professional organizations, educational institutions and training entities to potentially participate in stipends, loan forgiveness and/or scholarship programs.
- b. The group compared and contrasted stipends, loan forgiveness and scholarship programs, and considered selection criteria, terms of eligibility and provisions for the three financial incentive programs. The group then delineated

four broad mental health occupational groupings that require a minimum educational level; entry level, undergraduate, graduate, and post-graduate. The group then considered the applicability of the selection criteria, terms of eligibility and provisions to the three financial incentive programs and four occupational levels.

Applicable to all three financial incentive programs and all four occupational levels:

- Applicant must either work or commit to work in public mental health.
- Applicant must be a US citizen, permanent resident, or be work-eligible.
- Preference will be given to California residents.
- The current or potential employer addresses the need/shortage.
- Must address MHSA designated need, shortage area or occupation as indicated in the MHSA Workforce Education and Training Five-Year Plan's comprehensive needs assessment.
- Funds must be repaid if the conditions of the agreement are not met.
- The program must have a set of criteria and selection process. The selection process must include employer participation.
- The student application must address the eligibility requirements.

Applicable to stipends and scholarship programs and all four occupational levels:

- The training/institution in which the individual is enrolled must meet program-defined and agreed-upon competencies.
- The training/institution must address program-defined shortages.
- For eligibility to participate, a training/institution must:
 - Be state-approved or accredited,
 - Articulate a career ladder; i.e., how the training/education contributes to access to all four occupational levels, and
 - Meet the intent of the Act; e.g., culturally competent, promotes employment of consumers and family members, etc.
- Applicant must receive training/education in a California institution.

3. Next Steps.

Staff from DMH will continue to meet with HPEF, OSHPD and CalSWEC staff to develop proposed funding structures and guidelines for group consideration that incorporate the above parameters, and thus enable consideration by all professional organizations, educational institutions and training entities to potentially participate in stipends, loan forgiveness and/or scholarship programs. DMH staff will also meet with OSHPD to explore the possibility of using the above structures to draw down federal funding using the above guidelines and supplementary information and will report to the group on the feasibility of matching federal funds to the proposed MHSA funding mechanism.

No future meetings were set. However, this workgroup will continue to provide input to proposed program plans and draft documents as they are developed, and can convene as the need arises.